



Governor Daniels requests federal assistance for Lake, Vanderburgh counties

(September 26) Governor Daniels signed Executive Order 06-16, which expands a disaster declaration he signed September 14 for Lake County to include Vanderburgh County. In addition, he has sent a letter to President George W. Bush to request federal assistance for Hoosiers affected by flash flooding that occurred in both areas.

[Read the news release](#)

A copy of the governor's letter to the President and the Executive Order may be found [here](#).

Governor announces administration leadership changes

(September 27) "Several outstanding people made two-year commitments to state government, so we knew transitions would begin to occur in the natural course of business," said Governor Daniels, as he announced four changes in leadership at executive agencies and one in his office. The transitions will occur over the next few weeks to the end of the year.

[Read the news release](#)



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Daniels appoints St. Joseph Superior Court Judge

(September 29) Governor Daniels announced the appointment of Jane Woodward Miller of South Bend as St. Joseph Superior Court judge. She succeeds Judge William H. Albright who resigned effective September 30.

[Read the news release](#)

[Click to listen to audio of Governor Daniels' September 29 media availability](#)

View the next page to read an editorial by the **Gary Post-Tribune** on Governor Daniels and giving local government more taxing options.

Gary Post-Tribune

Time to give locals more options on taxes

October 1, 2006

When Gov. Mitch Daniels spoke to the Indiana Association of Cities and Towns convention last week, he again floated the idea of giving local government more taxing options -- to raise additional money and reduce property taxes.

He added: "One day, we'll get it done. Why not now?"

Because local government continues to rely almost exclusively on property taxes -- which continue to increase -- the governor is right. Why not now?

The biggest stumbling block to giving local government more leeway is the very body that must authorize the change -- the General Assembly. Too many lawmakers want to keep the financial control in Indianapolis. That's archaic and should be changed.

Highland Clerk-Treasurer Michael Griffin, an expert in local government finance and a candidate for state treasurer, aptly said it is wrong for all layers of government to rely on the same funding source.

"There needs to be a change from the one-size-fits-all ways we have to raise revenues," Griffin said.

The cities and towns are talking about a variety of options, including a local sales tax of up to 1 percent, income tax, motel and restaurant taxes. Each of those taxes is less punitive than property taxes, which stifle residential and business growth.

Should the General Assembly move ahead, it is vital that much of the revenue from any new tax be used to reduce property taxes. If that isn't the case, there's a loss, not a gain.

Given that the intent of any new tax is to reduce property taxes, any enabling legislation should include two other points.

The state must begin the removal of welfare from property taxes, as well as provide equity in Hospital Care for the Indigent. Those are two issues that Northwest Indiana legislators must ensure are in any tax-reform proposal.